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CHAPTER 420

AN ACT to create 59.033 of the statutes, relating to the office and duties of a county administrator in counties having a population of less than 500,000.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

59.033 of the statutes is created to read:

59.033 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. (1) ELECTION; APPOINTMENT; TERM OF OFFICE. In counties having a population of less than 500,000, the county board may by resolution create the office of county administrator. The county administrator shall be selected either by a majority vote of all the qualified electors in the county voting in an election or the county board by majority vote may appoint the county board chairman or county clerk or any other qualified person as county administrator for a 2-year term to run concurrently with the county board chairman. When the resolution adopted provides for a selection by a county-wide election he shall be elected for a term of 2 years at an election to be held on the first Tuesday in April following the adoption of the resolution by the county board and he shall take office on the first Monday in May following his election.

(2) DUTIES AND POWERS. The county administrator may be delegated such authority as the county board directs, including, but not restricted because of enumeration, the authority to:

(a) Co-ordinate and direct by administrative order or otherwise all administrative and management functions of the county government not otherwise vested by law in boards or commissions, or in other elected officers.

(b) Appoint the heads of all departments of the county except where the statutes provide that the appointment shall be made by a board or commission or by other elected officers; but he may, subsequent to the effective date of this section (1963) when so authorized by the county board, also appoint all department heads where the law provides that the appointment shall be made by the chairman of the county board or by the county board. Such appointments shall require the confirmation of the county board. The county administrator may file with the county board, charges for the removal, discharge or suspension of any person so appointed.

(c) Appoint the members of all boards and commissions when so authorized by the county board where such appointments are required after the effective date of this section (1963) and where the statutes provide that such appointment shall be made by the county board or the chairman of the county board. All appointments to boards and commissions by the county administrator shall be subject to the confirmation of the county board.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; STAFF. When authorized by the county board the county administrator may appoint an administrative secretary and such additional staff assistants as necessary.

(4) COMPENSATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY AND STAFF ASSISTANTS. The county board shall fix the compensation of the county administrator, his administrative secretary and his staff assistants, but the salary of an elected county administrator shall be established at least 90 days prior to any election held to fill the office.

(5) MESSAGE TO THE COUNTY BOARD; SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL BUDGET. The county administrator shall annually, and otherwise as necessary, communicate to the county board of supervisors the condition of the county, and recommend such matters to them for their consideration as he deems expedient. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, when so authorized by the county board he may be made responsible for the submission of the annual budget to the county board.

(6) VACANCY, HOW FILLED. A vacancy in the office of the county administrator shall be filled by appointment by the chairman of the county board, subject to confirmation by a majority of the county board.

Approved December 10, 1963.
